

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 495

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHLEGEL

STUDENTS: Requires the implementation of suicide prevention, student safety, and violence prevention and social inclusion training and the creation of clubs at certain public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:282.4(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (c) and 286(A) and  
3 to enact R.S. 17:282.4(G) and (H), relative to suicide prevention and violence in  
4 schools; to require training on related topics for certain students; to provide for  
5 requirements of the state Department of Education; to require formation of student  
6 organizations; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:282.4(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (c) and 286(A) are  
9 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:282.4(G) and (H) are hereby enacted to read as  
10 follows:

11 §282.4. Youth suicide prevention programs; policies; intent; rules; services; funding

12 \* \* \*

13 C. Any city, parish, or other local public school system offering a youth  
14 suicide prevention program established pursuant to this Section shall do so in  
15 accordance with such rules and regulations adopted by the state board and shall  
16 report its participation to the state Department of Education. The department shall  
17 designate such a school as a Suicide Prevention Certified School and maintain an  
18 updated list of such schools on its website. A youth suicide prevention program may  
19 include but shall not be limited to the following:



1           (a) How to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual  
2           who may be at risk of harming themselves.

3           (b) The steps students can take to report harmful or potentially harmful  
4           activity.

5           (3) The student safety, violence prevention, and social inclusion training may  
6           be administered through student assemblies, digital learning, and homework, shall  
7           be administered annually and be at least one hour or the duration of one standard  
8           class period, and shall include but need not be limited to:

9           (a) How to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual  
10          who may be at risk of harming others.

11          (b) The importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help.

12          (c) The steps students can take to report dangerous, violent, or threatening  
13          activity.

14          (d) What social inclusion is and how to identify social isolation in others.

15          (e) The importance of taking social isolation seriously and seeking help for  
16          peers.

17          (f) How to utilize strategies to be more socially inclusive in the classroom  
18          and community and how to establish connections with others.

19          (4) Upon written request of a student's parent or legal guardian, a student  
20          shall be excused from any of the training.

21          (5) The state Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of  
22          evidence-based suicide prevention and student safety, violence prevention, and social  
23          inclusion training, including but not limited to no-cost programming, on the  
24          department website. The department shall review the list at least every three years.

25          H. Each public school governing authority shall establish a student-led club  
26          focused on suicide prevention, student safety, violence prevention, and social  
27          inclusion for each school under its jurisdiction that has students in grades six through  
28          twelve. Each club shall:

29          (1) Be open to any member of the student population.



Proposed law allows parents to request that their children be excused from the training.

(Amends R.S. 17:282.4(C)(1)(intro. para.) and (c) and 286(A); Adds R.S. 17:282.4(G) and (H))